

**"OPPENHEIMER: THE STORY
OF A FRIENDSHIP,"** by
Haakon Chevalier, Pocket-
books, N.Y., 1966, 204 pp., 95c.

IN ADDITION to the fundamental frame-up and wholesale jailing of the leadership of the Communist Party early in the 1950's, there were three basic frame-ups characteristic of McCarthyism: the Rosenberg-Sobell cases, in which two parents were electrocuted and the third remains in jail serving out a barbaric 30-year sentence; the Hiss

The Schniers have masterfully exposed the nature of the Rosenberg-Sobell atrocity; Fred J. Cook and, earlier, this reviewer, demonstrated the nature of the crucifixion of Hiss — and Chevalier in the book under review has made clear the meaning of the Oppenheimer Case.

He shows Oppenheimer to have sold his soul for power and status; and Chevalier, a master writer and novelist, presents a fascinating, detailed record of the deterioration of the scientist. He demonstrates that here was no spy case at all; that the investigating agencies knew this and never even arrested Chevalier — or anyone else "named" by Oppenheimer.

Oppenheimer concocted what he himself called "a cock-and-bull story" and did it to advance his own purposes; having done this, he was "hooked" by the authorities who then used him to support the terrible policy of atom-bombing Japan and threatening the world with thermo-nuclear war.

Chevalier at the close of his book modestly suggests that he has been examining contemporaneous history and that, obviously, all the evidence is not yet in. That is true, certainly, yet this reviewer hazards the opinion that subsequent data will not alter in any substantial way the record here offered.

The Oppenheimer Case at any rate is one of the basic events of the Cold War era; no available book more fully illuminates it than Chevalier's "Story of a Friendship."